



Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission May 05, 2021

Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, May 05, 6:00 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Jeremy Farr, Chair
Abe McCann, Vice-Chair
William "Bill" Blair
Phillip Kraft
Chantele Carr
Celia Sadhu

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Cameron Johnson
Timothy Rogers
Alfred Trevino
Michelle Loposky

Staff Present:

Octavia Harris, Deputy Human Services Director
Terrisa Mays, City of Tempe

Guests Present:

Tim Gomez, City of Tempe
Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Jeremy Farr called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance

Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of April 06, 2021 Minutes

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE April 06, 2021 minutes by Commission Member Bill Blair

SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member Phil Kraft

AYES: Chair Jeremy Farr, Vice Chair Abe McCann, Commission Members Bill Blair, Phillip Kraft, and Chantele Carr, Celia Sadhu

ABSENT: Commission Member Cameron Johnson, Alfred Trevino, Michelle Lopusky and Timothy Rogers

Agenda Item 5 – Chair's Remarks

Chair Jeremy Farr welcomed everyone and thanked commission members for their efforts and contributions.

Agenda Item 6 – Update on Veteran's Banners, Tim Gomez - City of Tempe and Councilmember Robin Arredondo Savage

Tim Gomez and Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage discuss the first sample veteran's banner featured in downtown Tempe. Tim Gomez shares that a subcommittee will be requesting additional funding from the City Council to offset costs of installation to make the program more affordable for families. Tim requests that a letter of support from the Commission to Council to request more funding for veteran programs would be very helpful. The veteran banner program application is being processed through DTA and Militarybanners.org. Price per banner is being discussed, 3 council members have given discretionary money for seed funding for this project. The Commission could assist by getting the word out about the program. Commission members recommend that information about the program go out in the water bill newsletter. The goal is for banners to be up by the end of October. The Commission recommends reaching out to the Military Affairs Committee to engage and to see if there is an interest to assist with seed money. Commission member to do outreach to various organizations to raise awareness about the program. Letter of support to be drafted. Councilmember Arredondo Savage discusses a potential audit to survey veteran programs in the city of Tempe to identify gaps and to discuss the potentiality of establishing a point of contact for veteran programs.

Agenda Item 7 – Review of June E-Blast - Terrisa Mays, City of Tempe

Staff reviews the upcoming e-blast to be published in June. The Commission recommends that e-blast to be updated to feature content regarding the veteran's banners. Commission to provide feedback on the e-blast by Friday, May 14th.

Agenda Item 8 – 2021 Boards and Commissions Annual Report

Octavia Harris reviews 2021 goals with the Commission. E-Blast initiative has been accomplished. For the Veteran supportive employer's initiative, the Commission needs to establish another contact. Octavia Harris met with the deputy internal services director for data regarding hiring practices of veteran applicants. The discussion is now how can robust data be gathered, and reports generated. The City of Tempe wants to have another HR analyst go through the veteran supportive training. Community Salutes event has already happened, the objective is to define the Commission's role in the event. This year the Commission's involvement was participatory. Octavia to reach out to Parrish to see how the Commission can engage. The draft mentorship program is being spearheaded by Chair Jeremy Farr, a program proposal has been developed to be presented to Octavia Harris to ensure City buy in. Speakers from community organizations on veterans' issues. Commission to send guest speaker recommendations to Terrisa Mays or Octavia Harris. Chair Jeremy Farr shares that the Commission should be more engaged at state level with veterans' services, and that representation on the commission as well. Veteran's Upward Bound program under Michele Lopusky, updates at next meeting. Chantele shares that Maricopa Community College's developing similar program as they will begin offering 4 year degrees, veteran's to be targeted. The Military Success Center is now closed. No info on the 2021 Veteran's Day event.

Agenda Item 9 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements

Chantele Carr gives updates on semester scheduling for Maricopa Community Colleges. No updates from other Commission members.

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items – May 4, 2021

- Veteran Supportive Employer
- Tim Gomez - Letter from Commission
- Reach out to Business
- Fill Commission Seat
- Data Analysis - Aaron Peterson

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Next meeting will be on June 1, 2021

Minutes Prepared by: Terrisa Mays
Reviewed by Octavia Harris

Jeremy Farr, Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission